

# Labour Force, February 2025

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 20 March 2025, 10:30 am AEST.

	Queensland		Australia	
Trend - February 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	1,200	(0.0%)	15,200	(0.1%)
Unemployment (persons, rate)	600	(3.9%)	1,900	(4.0%)
Labour force (persons, growth)	1,800	(0.1%)	17,100	(0.1%)
Underemployment (persons, rate)	0	(6.2%)	-4,900	(5.9%)
Hours worked (thousands, growth)	500	(0.1%)	3,900	(0.2%)
Seasonally adjusted - February 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	-22,900	(-0.8%)	-52,800	(-0.4%)
Unemployment (persons, rate)	2,700	(4.1%)	-11,200	(4.1%)

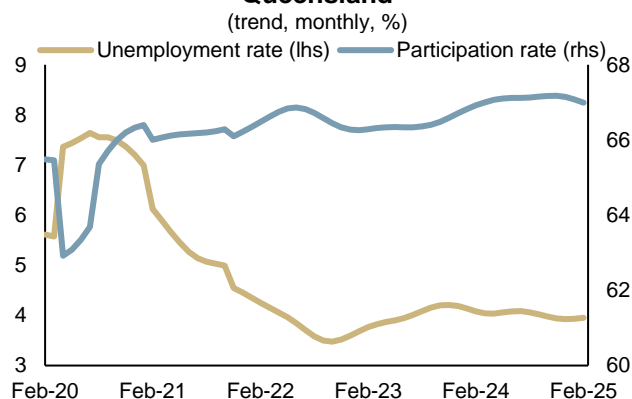
In trend terms, employment rose slightly by 1,200 persons (0.0%) in February 2025 to be 72,500 persons (2.5%) higher over the year. Full-time employment rose 0.1% in February (up 2,100) which was partly offset by a 0.1% fall in part-time employment (down 900).

In more volatile seasonally adjusted terms, employment fell 22,900 persons (down 0.8%) in the month, down to a level of 2.962 million total employed.

The unemployment rate was 3.9% in February, unchanged from January 2025, remaining at its lowest level since mid-2023 and still well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.6% in March 2020 (**Chart 1**).

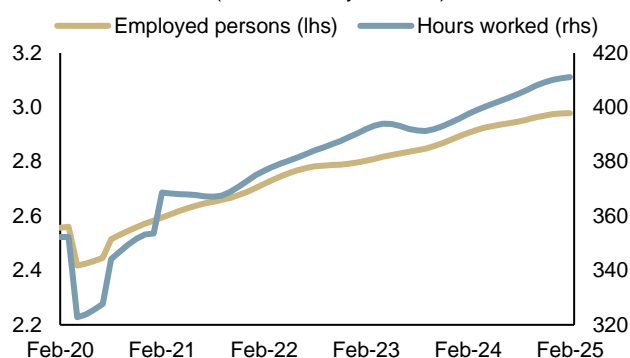
Queensland's participation rate was 67.0% in February 2025, remaining around the highest rates in well over a decade and only 1 percentage point below the record 68.0 per cent recorded during the pre-GFC boom.

**Chart 1: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland**



**Chart 2: Employment and hours worked, Queensland**

(trend, monthly, millions)



The employment-to-population ratio was 64.3% in February 2025, down from 64.4% in January but well above its pre-COVID ratio of 61.8%. Hours worked rose 0.1% in February and was 16.7% above its level in March 2020 (**Chart 2**).

Queensland's underemployment ratio<sup>1</sup> remained at 6.4% in February. The underemployment rate also held steady at 6.2%, reflecting a broadly stable share of underemployed workers in the labour force.

The underutilisation rate also held steady in February remaining at 10.1% since December 2024. This represents an improvement from 11.0% from the same period the year before, signalling a stronger job market with reduced workforce underutilisation.

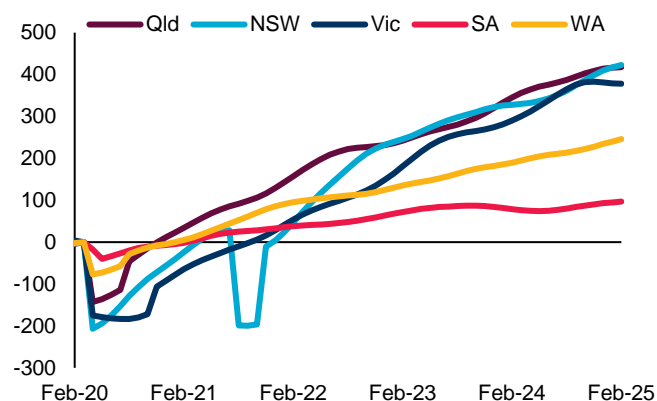
Nationally, trend employment rose by 15,200 persons in February (up 0.1%, **Table 1**) to be 340,000 persons (up 2.4%) higher over the year. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally fell by 52,800 persons which was well below market expectations for a 30,000 increase.

The ABS noted, '*Fewer older workers returning to work in February contributed to the fall in employment this month, with lower levels of employment in the older age groups in February 2025 compared with 2024... In contrast, we continue to see growth in employment for people aged between 15 and 54 over the year.*'

The national unemployment rate was 4.0% in February unchanged since November 2024. The ABS noted, '*The trend unemployment rate remained at 4.0 per cent in February. It has been within a relatively narrow range of 3.9 and 4.1 per cent for the past 12 months.*'

Hours worked nationally rose 0.2% in February, to be up 2.8% over the year and well above the 0.3% annual growth seen in the same period a year earlier.

**Chart 3: Employment growth since March 2020**  
(trend, monthly, '000 persons)

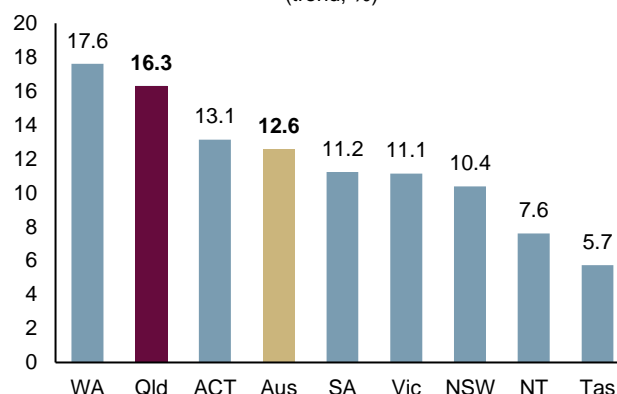


In February, Queensland (up 417,600 persons, **Chart 3**) had the second largest employment growth of any state or territory since March 2020, behind New South Wales (up 422,800, **Table 1**).

In percentage terms, Queensland also had the second largest employment growth (up 16.3%) since March 2020, behind Western Australia (up 17.6%, **Chart 4**).

Queensland's employment growth continues to outpace that of the other states increasing 2.5% over the year to February. This was behind Western Australia (up 3.5%) and just ahead of Victoria (up 2.4%), followed by New South Wales (up 2.2%) and South Australia (up 1.9%).

**Chart 4: Employment growth Mar-20 to Feb-25**  
(trend, %)



The unemployment rate held steady across the states with Queensland recording the second lowest rate at 3.9%, behind Western Australia at 3.5% and below the national average of 4.0% (**Table 1**).

**Table 1: Key labour force indicators, February 2025**  
(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
<b>Employed (000s)</b>	2,980	4,500	3,780	960	1,640	280	14,550
Monthly change (%)	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1
Monthly change (no.)	1,150	5,690	-840	1,800	5,800	310	15,190
Annual change (%)	2.5	2.2	2.4	1.9	3.5	-0.7	2.4
Annual change (no.)	72,500	94,800	88,300	17,900	56,300	-1,900	340,000
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>							
Feb-25	3.9	4.0	4.6	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0
Jan-25	3.9	3.9	4.6	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0
Feb-24	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.1	3.9
<b>Hours worked (millions)</b>	411.1	611.9	501.9	128.6	231.2	36.5	1980.2
Monthly change (%)	0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2
Annual change (%)	3.4	2.5	1.6	3.5	4.4	-0.3	2.8
<b>Participation rate (%)</b>							
Feb-25	67.0	66.3	67.8	63.3	69.1	60.2	67.0
Jan-25	67.1	66.3	67.9	63.3	69.0	60.2	67.0
Feb-24	66.9	65.9	67.2	63.0	68.8	61.1	66.6
<b>Underemployment rate (%)</b>							
Feb-25	6.2	5.7	6.1	6.3	5.6	7.7	5.9
Jan-25	6.2	5.8	6.2	6.4	5.6	7.7	5.9
Feb-24	6.9	6.4	7.1	7.3	5.8	7.3	6.6

- The underemployment ratio measures the proportion of underemployed workers out of all employed persons, the underemployment rate measures underemployed persons as a proportion of the total labour force, and the underutilisation rate combines both unemployment and underemployment to indicate spare capacity in the labour market.